

TESTIMONY OF NANCY HOWELL

APPROPRIATIONS SUB COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Subject: Restore state funding for \$529,000 to the Centers for Independent Living in Connecticut.

I am writing to you to make you aware of the many challenges we are facing with the impact of the Governor's budget. Because of current state, local and national economic conditions, we continue to experience cuts in our funding. We are facing the loss of federal funding due to loss of state match; loss of jobs for people with disabilities, Aging & Disability Resource Center Network in jeopardy and citizens in some regions of CT will no longer receive services.

Impact of the Governor's midterm budget adjustments:

- Loss of federal funds due to loss of State match
- Severe reduction of vital independent living service across the state but with an increased need due to other service cuts
- An increase in costly institutionalization placement for people with disabilities of all ages
- Loss of jobs for people with disabilities

As partners in the Money Follows the Person demonstration, Centers for Independent Living (CILs) transitioned 233 individuals out of nursing facilities, SAVING the State over 10.3 Million in 2015 almost 20 times the annual state funding for the CILs. In addition, CILs prevented 422 individuals from entering nursing facilities saving an estimated minimum of \$1 million.

In 2015, CT's Centers for Independent Living provided:

- Over 17,000 contacts with disability related information & referral services
- 2533 people with disabilities with independent living skills training, peer support, counseling, advocacy, youth & educational services, among other vital support services
- 128 people with disabilities with services to obtain & maintain employment
- 558 people with disabilities with services to obtain & maintain affordable & accessible housing
- 284 people with disabilities with services to obtain transportation
- 422 people with disabilities received services that prevented institutionalization
- In addition residential housing program for people living with AIDS, (DOH funding)

I respectfully urge you to do all you can to support to keep funding for Centers of Independent Living. Help us continue to provide the much needed services that make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities as well as for the state of Connecticut and consider the devastating impact it would have on the most vulnerable people in our community. We empower people with disabilities to be their own advocates.

Submitted by

Nancy Howell

Waterbury CT. 06705

